

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7559

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA POUCH

UNCLAS KUWAIT 3187

FOR NEA/EX, NEA/ARP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP QA

SUBJ: JUSTIFICATION FOR PROPOSED CONSULAR/COMMERCIAL OFFICER,
DOHA (FSO-6)

REF: KUWAIT 3185

1. ON BASIS SIX MONTHS EXPERIENCE WITH ONE-MAN POST AT DOHA, WE HAVE CONCLUDED THAT SECOND OFFICER (CONSULAR/COMMERCIAL) IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL FOR EFFECTIVE OPERATION.
2. PRINCIPAL OFFICER, RESPONSIBLE FOR OVERALL POST ADMINISTRATION IN ADDITION TO POLITICAL AND REPRESENTATIONAL DUTIES SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE ADEQUATE TIME TO DEVOTE TO CONSULAR AND COMMERCIAL DUTIES. IN ADDITION, WHEN PRINCIPAL OFFICER IS ABSENT ON LEAVE IT IS NECESSARY TO SEND OFFICER FROM KUWAIT OR ANOTHER NEARBY POST TO FILL IN ON TDY BASIS. THIS IS EXPENSIVE AND INEFFICIENT WAY TO OPERATE AND SHOULD BE DISCONTINUED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
3. ONE OF PRINCIPAL DEMANDS ON EMBASSY AT PRESENT IS FOR VISA SERVICES. IN PAST, VISA APPLICANTS (SEVERAL OF WHOM ARE HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS) HAVE HAD TO AWAIT VISIT OF CONSULAR OFFICER FROM KUWAIT, HAVE THEIR RECORDS SENT TO KUWAIT, OR TRAVEL THERE PERSONALLY. THIS LACK OF SERVICE HAS ELICITED COMPLAINTS FROM QATARI GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WHO EXPECTED FULL-FLEDGED EMBASSY

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FROM BEGINNING. RECENTLY PROBLEM HAS INCREASED WITH GOVERNMENT'S

DECISION SEND ADDITIONAL QATARI STUDENTS TO SCHOOL IN US (APPROXIMATELY 100 THIS YEAR), AND WE ANTICIPATE THIS TREND WILL CONTINUE. DEMAND FOR OTHER CONSULAR SERVICES IS ALSO LIKELY INCREASE IN FUTURE AS GOQ ECONOMIC EXPANSION PLANS ARE IMPLEMENTED AND MORE AMERICAN FIRMS ARE INVOLVED.

4. QATAR IS PRESENTLY IN STAGE OF RAPID ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND A COMMERCIAL OFFICER IN DOHA IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL TO EXPAND AMERICAN TRADE IN THIS ATTRACTIVE MARKET. QATAR'S IMPORTS IN 1971 WERE \$123.8 MILLION, OF WHICH \$12.1 MILLION WERE FROM US. (IMPORTS FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 1972 ROSE TO \$71 MILLION.) GOQ HAD \$220 MILLION BUDGET IN 1971, WHICH WILL INCREASE IN FUTURE WITH EXPANDING OIL REVENUES. HOWEVER, TO REACH THIS UNUSUAL MARKET WITH ITS OWN PECULIARITIES, CLOSE HISTORICAL AND COMMERCIAL TIES WITH UK, LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH AMERICAN PRODUCTS, NO LOCAL DAILY PRESS, AND NATURAL PREFERENCE FOR PERSONAL DEALING OF COMMERCIAL OFFICER ON THE SPOT IS REQUIRED. OCCASIONAL VISITS BY REGIONAL ECONOMIC OFFICER HAVE PROVED TO BE INADEQUATE. FOR EXAMPLE, A NEW AIRPORT PROJECT AND ELECTRIC POWER PROJECT HAVE RECENTLY COME TO OUR ATTENTION, BUT BOTH HAVE ALREADY BEEN DESIGNED BY BRITISH FIRMS. EARLIER INFORMATION ON PROJECTS COULD HAVE OPENED THE WAY FOR AMERICAN DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION. WITH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON DEVELOPMENTS IN QATAR SUPPLIED BY EMBASSY, US BUSINESS ACTIVITY COULD BE EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO BENEFIT OF US BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

5. EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT ANNUAL RECURRING POST COSTS OF THIS POSITION (POST ALLOWANCES, SUNDAY DIFFERENTIAL, HOUSING AND UTILITIES) TO BE \$12,161 FOR AN FSO-6/1 AS OF 8/31/73. BECAUSE OF RAPIDLY INFLATING HOUSING COSTS, HOWEVER, POST COSTS WILL PROBABLY INCREASE TO \$15,246 BY APRIL 1, 1974. WE ASSUME THAT BUREAU WILL PROVIDE HOUSEHOLD AND OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT. STOLTZFUS

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